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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A folding apparatus (100) for inserting an air
2 bag and housing into an interior cavity of a cover, the apparatus comprising:
3 an arcuately shaped stationary tube, the tube being configured to slidably
4 receive the housing and permit the air bag to be drawn up into the tube, the tube
5 including an open first end oriented so that a plane through the first end is at a desired
6 orientation, said tube defining a guiding slot;
7 a ram means is arcuately movable through the tube for holding and
8 moving the housing and air bag through the tube, said ram being partially disposed in
9 the guide slot; and
10 a holding means for orienting the cover so that its internal cavity is in
11 alignment with and adjacent to the first end such that the housing and air bag can be
12 rammed into the cover cavity.
- 1 2. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1 wherein that portion of
2 the ram means that holds the housing is movable along a radial direction.

1 3. (Original) The apparatus as defin d in Claim 1 wherein the ram m ans
2 is movable through and out of th tube to a position conv ni nt for the user of the
3 apparatus to install and dismount the housing and air bag onto and off from the ram
4 means.

1 4. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1 wherein the air bag is
2 rammed directly into the cover.

1 5. (Previously Presented) A folding apparatus (100) for inserting an air
2 bag and housing into an interior cavity of a cover, the apparatus comprising:

3 an arcuately shaped tube, the tube sized to slidably receive the housing
4 and permit the air bag to be drawn up into the tube, the tube including an open first end
5 oriented so that a plane through the first end is at a desired orientation;

6 a ram means movable through the tube for holding and moving the
7 housing and air bag through the tube;

8 a holding means for orienting the cover so that its internal cavity is in
9 alignment with and adjacent to the first end such that the housing and air bag can be
10 rammed into the cover cavity; and

11 wherein the ram means includes first means for rotating the cover,
12 housing and air bag and wherein the first means includes a support portion for holding
13 the housing, the first means is rotatable to a preferred orientation to enable the user of
14 the apparatus to orient the cover, housing and air bag to this preferred orientation to
15 facilitate dismounting the housing, cover and air bag as a unit and the subsequent
16 assembly an air bag module.

1 6. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 5 wherein the first means
2 includes a pivot about which the support portion can rotate.

1 7. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 5 wherein the first means
2 includes a lock means for locking and unlocking the support portion from other portions
3 of the first means.

1 8. (Original) The apparatus (100) as d fined in Claim 1 wherein a wall of
2 the tube includes a slot or channel, and wherein the ram means is movable through the
3 channel.

1 9. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1 wherein the tube is of a
2 hollow, circular-sector shape.

1 10. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1 wherein the ram means
2 includes a ram arm pivotally mounted on one end thereof and a ram element operatively
3 linked to the ram mounting member.

1 11. (Previously Presented) A holding apparatus (100) for inserting an air
2 bag and housing into an interior cavity of a cover, the apparatus comprising:

3 an arcuately shaped tube, the tube being configured to slidably receive the
4 housing and permit the air bag to be drawn up into the tube, the tube including an open
5 first end oriented so that a plane through the first end is at a desired orientation, said
6 tube defining a guiding slot;

7 a ram element movable through the tube for holding and moving the
8 housing and air bag through the tube, the ram means includes a ram arm pivotally
9 mounted on one end thereof and a ram element operatively linked to the ram mounting
10 member;

11 a holding means for orienting the cover so that its internal cavity is in
12 alignment with and adjacent to the first end such that the housing and air bag can be
13 rammed into the cover cavity;

14 wherein the ram element is pivotably movable from a first position relative
15 to the ram member, to a second position in which the ram element is substantially
16 horizontal and such that if the cover were attached to the ram element the cover would
17 lie substantially horizontal at the second orientation; and

18 wherein the ram element is partially disposed within the slot.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim [[1]] 11
2 wherein the holding means includes a clam-shell mechanism for sandwiching the cover,
3 in a preferred orientation, therebetween.

1 13. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 12 wherein the clam-shell
2 mechanism includes a first cover support member secured proximate the first end of the
3 tube.

1 14. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 13 wherein the clam-shell
2 member further includes a second cover support member movable relative to the first
3 cover support member.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11
2 wherein the desired orientation is substantially vertical.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11
2 wherein the cover and air bag housing are adapted to snap together upon insertion of
3 the housing into the cover.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11
2 wherein the cover and air bag housing are adapted to be riveted together.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11
2 wherein the air bag is adapted to be stretched out by interference with interior surfaces
3 of the tube as the housing is moved up the tube.

1 19. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 8 further including a
2 barrier means for restricting contaminants from entering into the tube.

1 20. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1 wherein the ram means
2 includes force means for forcibly moving the housing and air bag compressively toward
3 the cover.

1 21. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1 wherein a plane
2 through a centerline of the tube is generally vertically oriented.

1 22. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1 wherein the tube curves
2 one of upwardly and downwardly.

1 23. (Original) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1 wherein the tube curves
2 in a horizontal plane.